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The #1 Cause of Death

They are telling doctors how to ask
The right questions; to get to the truth
Beneath the clenched jaws, silence and bruises.
But what is the proper remedy?

Here, take two aspirins, and hide;
Take your children now to the shelter
Don't wait for more proof.
You will never be secure,
It will not go away;
He will kill you if you take it long enough.
You are the real Cinderella
The glass slipper fits;

Except there is something wrong with the prince—Inside his mind the violence builds to explosions Like atomic bombs in your life—Your livingroom and your kitchen Are full of land mines; You are in a war zone Weaponless and weeping Oh, for the love of God and your children, Leave! I write this as an Rx, as your physician I order you—As a mother I beg you, Do not stop to feel defeated, just move, Keep your feet on the path to the shelter, Later, later, you can grieve.

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